

2006 Employee Retirement Checklist

3 Months Prior to Retirement

- ☐ Employee applies to retire with URS Defined Benefit Division (phone: 366-7770, 1-800-695-4877 fax: 366-7733)
- ☐ Employee meets with a trained agency HR/payroll staff member to go through retirement spreadsheet estimates and discuss the following:
- ☐ 401(k) contract deadlines (end of last pay period)
 - ☐ 457 contract deadlines (must be received by URS in the calendar month prior to the date of final paycheck)
 - ☐ Tax issues
 - ☐ See Explanation of Withholding Tax below

Explanation of Withholding Tax

Any portion of gross taxable pay not offset by pre-tax deductions is subject to tax withholdings. The 401(k) and 457 deductions are pre-tax deductions for Federal and State tax purposes but **not** for Social Security and Medicare tax purposes. Therefore, you cannot shelter all of your leave payout from taxes. To illustrate, assume your annual leave payout amounts to \$10,000 and you claim married and one allowance on your W-4 withholding tax form. Even though you set up a 401(k) contract for \$10,000 you will still pay withholding taxes. This is because \$620 must be withheld for Social Security tax and \$145 for Medicare tax. In addition, Federal and State tax must be withheld on the money used to pay the Social Security and Medicare tax (\$765). Plus, the money withheld to pay the Federal and State Income tax on the Social Security and Medicare taxes is also subject to income tax withholding. As a result only \$8,910 of the \$10,000 can actually be deducted for the 401(k) tax shelter as shown below.

Form W-4 = Married & 1

Allowance Description	Pay Amount	Apply Tax Shelter	Fed/State Taxable	SS/Med Taxable
Regular Pay	\$ -	-	= \$ -	\$ -
Annual Leave Payout	\$10,000.00	- \$ 8,910.00*	= \$ 1,090.00	\$10,000.00
Total: Earnings/Applied Shelter/Taxable	\$10,000.00	\$ 8,910.00	\$ 1,090.00	\$10,000.00
Less Deductions:				
401k Tax Shelter	\$ 8,910.00			
Other Deductions	\$ -			
Federal Tax (\$1,090 @ flat 25%)	\$ 272.50			
State Tax (\$1,090 @ Married + 1)	\$ 52.27			
Social Security (\$10,000 @ 6.2%)	\$ 620.00			
Medicare Tax (\$10,000 @ 1.45%)	\$ 145.00			
Total Deductions	\$ 9,999.77			
Net Pay	\$ 0.23			

* This amount can be determined by using the PayBreeze program.

- ☐ The final check will not be re-issued as a result of missing the 401(k) and/or 457 deadlines or if the employee does not agree with the tax withholding
- ☐ Estimate spreadsheets do not calculate taxes, so actual benefits may vary
- ☐ If a retired employee is re-hired into a benefited position in the same calendar year as retirement; an amount equal to the pension contribution will be deposited into the employee's 401(k) account (up to IRS limitations).

During the Calendar Month Prior to the Date of Final Paycheck

- ☐ If desired, employee completes and submits voluntary 457 contract to URS (must have a specific dollar amount)
- ☐ Employee must write date of final paycheck on contract form.

Within 30 days of Retirement

- ☐ Employee meets with a trained agency HR/Payroll staff member to complete retirement spreadsheet estimate
- ☐ HR Payroll completes and explains spreadsheet to employee/retiree
 - ☐ Ask employee if they are participating in the Flex Program and if they want remaining Flex contributions to come out of final paycheck in one lump sum.
 - ☐ Include Retirement and/or Service Awards on Excel spreadsheet
 - ☐ If Cash is chosen, add to wages calculation
 - ☐ If item is chosen, add to non-cash earnings calculation.
- ☐ Employee signs the retirement spreadsheet estimate
 - ☐ Employee can check the box on the retirement spreadsheet to be notified if significant differences occur between the estimate spreadsheet and the actual spreadsheet. Requesting such notification may delay the final check and insurance. (A significant difference is if the months of insurance the employee can purchase differs or if the 401(k)/HRA contribution amount differs by more than \$500.)
 - ☐ HR/Payroll completes and e-signs the automated retirement worksheet estimate form (signed by preparer and employee)
 - ☐ If employee is age 65 or older, their Program I sick leave benefit will purchase the Medicare Supplement effective the first of the month following their insurance end date. For example, if the employee's retirement date is 7/16/2006 and their last day of work is 7/14/2006, then the employee's Medicare Supplement would be effective on 8/1/2006.
 - ☐ In Section I of the automated worksheet, modify the Date of Final Ins. Deduction to reflect the end of the month. For Example, if a persons last day of work is 7/14/2006 and their final paycheck is 7/28/2006, then their insurance would normally end on 7/28/2006. However, if they are over age 65, the insurance end date should be changed to 7/31/2006, forcing the effective date of the Medicare Supplement to be 8/1/2006.
 - ☐ If the employee is under age 65, then the automated worksheet should be filled out the normal way, list the actual Date of Final Ins. Deduction. For example, an employee with a final paycheck date of 7/28/2006 will also have a Date of Final Ins. Deduction of 7/28/2006.
- ☐ Give a copy of the completed retirement spreadsheet and automated worksheet to the employee/retiree
- ☐ Place a copy of the completed retirement spreadsheet and automated worksheet into the personnel file.

- ☐ HR/Payroll emails estimate spreadsheet to State Payroll at payroll@utah.gov with instructions on whether or not the employee wishes to be notified in the event of a significant difference between estimates and actual benefits
- ☐ Agency HR/Payroll notifies employee of the need to contact PEHP retirement benefits to complete insurance enrollment forms. The PEHP contacts are Shari Naegle at 366-7512 or Tammy Peretto 366-7520.
- ☐ Explain that the insurance provided is the same level of coverage the retiree had upon retirement and is available to retirees under 65 years of age and their dependents by using 8 hours of sick or converted sick leave. **Retirees are responsible for their portion of the premium** at the same percentage participation rate as current employees (2% for Advantage Care and Summit Care, 7% for Preferred Care). Retirees pay a higher premium because they are in a different risk pool, so the exact cost will differ from the cost they are paying as an employee, but the percentage remains the same.
- ☐ State Paid insurance is also provided to retirees under 65 years of age as follows:
 - 2006 – 5 years
 - 2007 – 4 years
 - 2008 – 3 years
 - 2009 – 2 years
 - 2010 – 1 year
 - 2011 and after – State paid insurance is no longer provided
- ☐ Explain that regular insurance ends when employee turns age 65. Employee can purchase Medicare supplement with additional sick leave. Sick leave covers the PEHP Medicare D Enhanced Plan. Employee can also purchase the PEHP Medicare D Basic Plan.
- ☐ Employee must be on Medicare A and B at the time of retirement to qualify for the PEHP Medicare Plans.
- ☐ The life insurance provided is the basic \$25,000, until age 65. The employee can opt to convert 25% of their additional life insurance coverage into a private policy with PEHP at their own expense.
- ☐ Employee completes and employee submits voluntary 401(k) contract for any voluntary employee contributions to URS (must have a specific dollar amount) (due at URS by end of pay period of last day worked)
 - ☐ Employee must write date of final paycheck on contract form.
 - ☐ Employee must decide if they want their regular 401(k) deferral amount to come out of their final paycheck. The regular deferral will come out of the final paycheck UNLESS the employee elects to defer a different amount. If the employee elects to defer part or all of the final check, the amount specified on the final contract overrides any amount previously set up in SAP. For example, if the employee wants their annual leave payout and their regular deferral amount to come out of their final paycheck, the total amount on the 401(k) contract must reflect the deferral + the annual leave payout amount.
 - ☐ HR/Payroll must make sure that the retirement spreadsheet matches the amount listed on the 401(k) contract. The HR/Payroll contact should run the numbers through PayBreeze to determine if the amount listed on the 401(k) contract is available for deferral.

Before Final Paycheck is cut

- ☐ State Finance receives, reviews, updates, and approves an Actual Retirement Excel Spreadsheet
- ☐ State Finance notifies agency and/or employee of significant differences to estimated spreadsheet and actual spreadsheet (if employee requests notification final check and insurance is delayed until all issues are resolved).

- ☐ State Finance completes and e-signs the automated retirement worksheet that has already been e-signed by the preparer and employee (or on behalf of the employee).

Delayed Paycheck

- ☐ If the employee was contacted due to significant differences between the estimate and the actual retirement spreadsheet, and the employee's final paycheck is delayed, HR/Payroll will need to make sure that all remaining questions are fully answered by the employee, the information is changed, signatures are reentered, and information sent to Finance. It will be up to the employee to respond in a timely manner.

By Last Paycheck

- ☐ Employee applies for insurance coverage with PEHP (contact: Shari Naegle - 366-7512 or Tammy Peretto - 366-7520)
- ☐ Another Reminder - **Retirees are responsible for their portion of the premium at the same percentage participation rate as current employees** (2% for Advantage Care and Summit Care, 7% for Preferred Care). Retirees pay a higher premium because they are in a different risk pool, so the exact cost will differ from the cost they are paying as an employee, but the percentage remains the same.
- ☐ Reminder – After age 65, employee can purchase Medicare supplement with additional sick leave. Sick leave covers the PEHP Medicare D Enhanced. Employee can also purchase the PEHP Medicare D Basic Plan.
- ☐ Employee must be on Medicare A and B at the time of retirement to qualify for the PEHP Medicare Plans.
- ☐ The life insurance provided is the basic \$25,000, until age 65. The employee can opt to convert 25% of their additional life insurance coverage into a private policy with PEHP at their own expense.

Completed by _____

Date _____